

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMSIN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR

1. (Currently Amended) A system for implementing surgical procedures comprising:
an ultrasonic surgical handpiece having an end-effector;
a generator console for controlling the handpiece;
an electrical connection connecting the handpiece and the console,
wherein the console sends a drive current to drive the handpiece which imparts ultrasonic longitudinal movement to the end-effector; and
a finger-operated switch provided on a housing of the handpiece, the switch activating the handpiece at a first power level if a sensor monitored pressure value on the switch reaches a high threshold, and deactivating the handpiece if the sensor monitored pressure value reaches a low threshold, and the hand piece operating at a level proportional to the sensor monitored pressure value on the finger-operated switch.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the switch is distally located on the handpiece.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the handpiece is operated at a power level selected from a plurality of power levels if the sensor monitored pressure value reaches a specific threshold of a respective plurality of thresholds corresponding to the plurality of power levels.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the pressure is monitored by a sensor is located inside the housing of the handpiece, said sensor selected from a group consisting of an electro-mechanical switch, a force-sensitive resistor, force sensitive capacitor, strain gauge, magnet, ferromagnet, piezo film and piezo ceramic.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the switch comprises a pair of switch button members.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the switch further comprises an inactive center region for resting of a finger and serving as a tactile reference.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the switch is generally user-alignable with the end-effector.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the switch is symmetrically aligned and indexed to the end-effector.
9. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein each of the switch button members comprises:
 - an upper surface and a lower surface;
 - a first post and a second post extending outwardly away from the lower surface; and
 - a first raised section and a second raised section on the upper surface, said raised section being supported by a center recessed section formed therebetween.
10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the first post is disposed generally opposite the first raised section and the second post is disposed generally opposite the second raised section so that the first post is directed toward the interior of the handpiece when the first raised section is depressed and the second post is directed toward the interior of the handpiece when the second raised section is depressed.
11. (Withdrawn)
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13. (Withdrawn)
14. (Withdrawn)
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16. (Withdrawn)
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18. (Withdrawn)
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20. (Withdrawn)
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23. (Withdrawn)
24. (Withdrawn)
25. (Withdrawn)
26. (Withdrawn)
27. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising switches on opposing sides of the handpiece that generally avoid inadvertent activation.
28. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the switch is a hysteresis switch.
29. (Withdrawn)

30. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the switch provides its switching functionality according to a lagging effect as the monitored pressure on the switch is changed.

31. (Currently Amended) A system for implementing surgical procedures comprising:

an ultrasonic surgical handpiece having an end-effector;
a generator console for controlling the handpiece;
an electrical connection connecting the handpiece and the console,
wherein the console sends a drive current to drive the handpiece which imparts ultrasonic longitudinal movement to the end-effector; and
a finger-operated switch provided on a housing of the handpiece, the switch activating the handpiece at a first power level and deactivating the handpiece if a low threshold is reached, and the handpiece operating at a level proportional to a sensor monitored pressure value on the finger-operated switch.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the switch is distally located on the handpiece.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein ~~the switch further comprises a sensor is located inside the housing of the handpiece for monitoring the switch, said sensor selected from a group consisting of an electro-mechanical switch, a force-sensitive resistor, force sensitive capacitor, strain gauge, magnet, ferromagnet, piezo film and piezo ceramic.~~

34. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the switch comprises a pair of switch button members.

35. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the switch further comprises an inactive center region for resting of a finger and serving as a tactile reference.
36. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the switch is generally user-alignable with the end-effector.
37. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the switch is symmetrically aligned and indexed to the end-effector.
38. (Original) The system of claim 34 wherein each of the switch button members comprises:
 - an upper surface and a lower surface;
 - a first post and a second post extending outwardly away from the lower surface; and
 - a first raised section and a second raised section on the upper surface, said raised section being supported by a center recessed section formed therebetween.
39. (Original) The system of claim 38 wherein the first post is disposed generally opposite the first raised section and the second post is disposed generally opposite the second raised section so that the first post is directed toward the interior of the handpiece when the first raised section is depressed and the second post is directed toward the interior of the handpiece when the second raised section is depressed.
40. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the switch activates the handpiece at the first power level if a monitored pressure on the switch reaches a high threshold, and deactivating the handpiece if the monitored pressure reaches the low threshold.
41. (Withdrawn)

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57. (Original) The system of claim 31 further comprising switches on opposing sides of the handpiece that generally avoid inadvertent activation.

58. (Original) The system of claim 31 wherein the switch is a hysteresis switch.

59. (Withdrawn)

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61. (Withdrawn)

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64. (Withdrawn)

65. (Withdrawn)

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66. (Currently Amended) An ultrasonic surgical handpiece having a housing with a finger-operated switch located thereon, the switch having a sensor for monitoring pressure thereon so that the handpiece is placed in an operative mode when the sensor monitors a pressure above a first threshold and is placed in an inoperative another operative mode when the pressure is below a second threshold, and the handpiece operates at a level proportional to a pressure value on the finger-operated switch that is monitored by the sensor.

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67. (Currently Amended) The handpiece of claim 66 wherein the first and second thresholds are identical the same.

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68. (Original) The handpiece of claim 66 wherein the first threshold is at a higher pressure than the second threshold.